

**Minutes of the meeting of the Governing Body of Technological University of the Shannon:  
Midlands Midwest**

**Monday 17-2-25 at 10:00am**

**Midwest Campus/MS Teams**

**Members:** Josephine Feehily – Chair, in person  
Vincent Cunnane – in person  
Marguerite Doyle – in person  
Maureen Falvey – in person  
Jos Gijbels – Teams  
John Griffin – Teams  
Darina Kneafsey – in person  
Kevin McLoughlin – in person  
Tony Mahon – Teams  
Amelia Lown- in person  
Pamela O'Brien - in person  
George O'Callaghan – In person  
Geoff Shannon- in person  
Gearoid Folan – in person  
Anne Cusack - Teams  
Noel Gavin – in person  
Catherine Collins – in person  
Colette Ryan – Teams  
James Ring – in person

**In Attendance:** Bill Delaney, Governing Body Secretary  
Martina Moran, Recording Secretary, (Teams)  
Janet Owens, Project Officer – Item 17.0 (Teams)  
HEA - Dr Alan Wall – Item 19.0  
Ms. Orla Nugent, Deputy CEO  
Ms. Pearl Cunningham, Head of Finance

**4. Apologies:** No apologies.

**SECTION A: STANDING ITEMS**

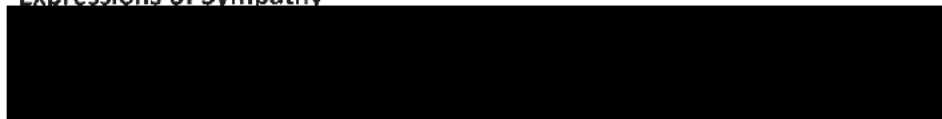
**1. Chairpersons Opening**

Due to the volume of the agenda, it may not be possible to cover all items at this meeting, any remaining items will be carried over to a future Governing Body meeting. Depending on time constraints at today's meeting the Masterplan Presentation may take place at the March meeting.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Subject to above the agenda was approved.

**3. Expressions of Sympathy**



**5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest or Loyalty**

There was no declaration of Conflict of Interest or Loyalty.

**6. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence

**7. Minutes of Governing Body meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

The minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved.

**Proposed by G. O'Callaghan, seconded by N. Gavin.**

**8. Matters Arising**

With regard to the People & Organisation Strategic Planning 2025-2028 presentation, it was requested that the presentation be sent to Governing Body in a word document which would include an action plan, implementation metrics and timelines.

There is no update on the HR legal matter, the Chair will issue an interim reply to the Secretary General.

Action	By whom	By when
Request VP Culture & EDI to convert presentation made to GB Jan '25 into word format which will include an action plan, implementation metrics and timelines	VP Culture & EDI	<b>GB 31-3-25</b>
Issue an interim reply to the Secretary General re the HR Legal issue	Chair & President	<b>Immediate effect</b>

**9. Action Log**

The following updates were given:

Item #169: turn 'white', clarification required

Item #172: this will be reviewed as part of the budget – Mar '25 (FPDC 21/3/25 and GB 31/3/25)

Item #177: turn 'white' as it is still ongoing

Item #180: turn 'white' as review will take place before the end of the academic year

Item #181: turn 'white' as Governing Body wish to see the Agreed Scheme and dashboard.

All 'green' items will now be removed.

**10. Risk Management**

This will be discussed under ARC item 13.1.

**11. President's Strategic Update and Report**

The President's report was noted.

The issue of Professorships has progressed; a working group has been established; the concept of a Professor, the role and function within a TU has been agreed, however, there are still some outstanding issues which have yet to be agreed.

The final THEA Council meeting took place on 23/1/25. A new sectoral representative body will be convened.

NTUTORR – From a large a number of potential areas for continued funding three main areas have emerged: Artificial Intelligence and related to that Academic integrity as well as the Digital Backpack initiative.

The President will travel to HAMK, Finland after Governing Body today to attend the RUN-EU President's meeting.

The 3rd annual TUS Research Week is taking place from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> February '25. Key focus of this year's Research Week is the emphasis on industry collaboration within the region and sustainability.

Storm Eowyn –TUS facilities were made available on request from Department of Housing, (McCormack Hall, Athlone Campus) to the local community at the bequest of the College Chaplain, while there wasn't a significant uptake by external users, staff and student did avail of the facilities.

**SECTION B: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / APPROVAL**

**11. TUS Honorary Doctorate Awards Policy 2024-2029**

The President presented this Policy to Governing Body. The policy is intended as a guide to the honorary degree process on the nomination, evaluation, selection and conferral on honorary doctorates by TUS.

After a thorough discussion, Governing Body approved the idea of moving into the realm of having an Honorary Doctorate Award for TUS, however, they had the following concerns regarding the policy:

- General welcome for the proposal
- GB wish to understand the basis for some of the eligibility criteria, especially exclusions, including whether they are typical in Irish universities.
- Concern that the process proposed is overly closed, and concern at the extent of the role for Academic Council in both nominating and deciding. Members offered examples of institutions with a broader approach to nominations

Other specific matters to be reviewed / amended:

- Document Control Record - the Approval Body is Governing Body.
- Policy to include the provision whereby Academic Council will consider what time of year to host an Honorary Doctorate Ceremony.

The President will discuss the points raised by Governing Body with the Academic Registrar.

Action	By whom	By when
President to consider the points raised and revert to GB at an early date.	The President	Future GB

### 13. ARC 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Report

The Chair of ARC briefed Governing Body on the ARC meeting of 5/2/25.

ARC raised a point during the Action Log review at their meeting that there should be sectoral approach regarding Cyber Security, this point will be further raised with Dr. Wall.

#### 13.2 Annual Report(s) on Protected Disclosures 2024

##### *TUS PD Report*

##### *Report for the Minister*

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the Annual Report(s) on Protected Disclosures 2024 – TUS PD Report (which will be published on the website) and the Report for the Minister (which will issue to the Minister before 1.3.25)

**Proposed by ARC and seconded by G. Folan**

#### 13.3 TUS Policy Framework Updates

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the TUS Policy Framework Update.

**Proposed by ARC and seconded by C. Collins**

#### 13.4 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) & Statement of Internal Control (SIC) 2023/24

ARC are satisfied to recommend the AGS & SIC 23/24 to Governing Body for approval. This item will also be covered under item 15.1.

#### 13.5 Progress Procurement Report 2024/25

On the recommendation of ARC, Governing Body approved the Progress Procurement Report 2024/25.

**Proposed by ARC and seconded by N. Gavin**

**Note:** No procurement non-compliance were identified.

#### 13.1 Risk Management - Strategic Risk Register & Executive Summary

Governing Body noted the updated Strategic Risk Register & Executive Summary.

#### 13.6 C&AG - Audit Planning Memorandum 2023/24

Noted.

#### 13.7 Fixed Asset Report (FAR)

Noted.

#### **13.8 2024-25 Work Plan**

Noted.

#### **14.0 FPDC 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 Report**

The Chair of FPDC briefed Governing Body on the FPDC meeting of 21/1/25.

##### **14.1 Fixed Asset Report (FAR)**

Noted.

##### **14.2 Treasury Management Report**

Background to this proposal was provided and on the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved the opening of a Term Deposit Bank of Ireland Account as per the fixed rate, term and security presented.

##### **14.3 Financial Update & Financial Risk (Strategic Risk Register)**

Update was provided and the Strategic Risk Register was noted.

##### **14.4 Capital Development Reserve (CDR) Transfer**

On the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body agreed to transfer [REDACTED] from unrestricted Revenue Reserves to the Capital Development Reserve (CDR).

##### **Proposed by FPDC and seconded by M. Doyle**

The protocol for transfers to CDR is uploaded on Decision Time for information.

##### **14.5 Multi Annual Contracts (as per Major Contracts Approvals Procedures & Thresholds)**

Noted.

##### **14.6 Capital Project Report / Update (to include Appendix A&B)**

On the recommendation of FPDC, Governing Body approved the sale of 0.444 of an acre of TUS land to LCCC for its Active Travel Initiative.

There is a process in place in terms of valuation of this piece of land, and Governing Body will be provided this documentation once prepared.

Governing Body were appraised of discussions to link Moyross Avenue and the Old Cratloe Road in order to open up access to educational institutions, sports facilities, business and social opportunities.

##### **14.7 TUS Capital Masterplan**

The Masterplan presentation will be deferred until the next Governing Body meeting. Members were requested to review the Capital Masterplan and to forward any feedback/comments to J. Browne, VP Campus Services & Capital Development and C. Cloonan, Head of Capital Development. The updated version of the TUS Capital Masterplan will be brought to Governing Body in March or April for review and approval.

##### **14.8 C&AG – Audit Planning Memorandum 23/24**

Noted.

##### **14.9 2024-25 Work Plan**

Noted.

**15. GNC 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Report**

***15.1 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) & Statement of Internal Control (SIC) 2023/24***

On the recommendation of ARC and GNC, Governing Body approved the AGS & SIC 2023/24

GNC have commissioned the Internal Auditors (Deloitte) to carry out a Gap Analysis between the TUS Interim Code of Governance and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016. The report will be presented to the GNC meeting scheduled for 25/2/25. The outcome of this audit will determine the precise response to Statement 1, although it is most likely to be an “explain” response. Governing Body will be advised post the GNC meeting, the Chair and President will duly sign the AGS which will then be submitted to the HEA before the end of February. This approach was agreed by the Governing Body.

***15.2 Oversight Agreement 2025***

GNC reviewed and considered the document which contains some additions and amendments from 2024 (highlighted in yellow for information). On the recommendation of GNC, Governing Body approved the Oversight Agreement 2025. The Agreement will be duly signed by the Chair and President and remitted to the HEA.

**SECTION C: Items for Information / noting**

**16. TUS TrustEd Application**

The President presented this item – TrustEd Ireland is a new statutory quality mark and is part of legislative measures designed to protect international learners. As this item is for noting, members were requested to contact the GB Secretary if they had any comments/observations, etc and to cc Governing Body Members on the correspondence. This item will be re-visited under Item 8 (Matters Arising) at the next Governing Body meeting.

**17.0 TUS Strategic Plan 2023-2026 – Mid-term progress update**

Ms. J. Owens, Project Officer attended on Teams.

The President presented this item for information. The Mid-term update shows progress for each objective and metric. Members were requested to review the update and presentation and any matters they wish to raise will be accommodated at the next Governing Body meeting.

**18.0 Staff Appointments**

Noted.

**19.0 HEA visit**

Dr. Alan Wall, Ms. Orla Nugent and Ms. Pearl Cunningham were welcomed to the Governing Body meeting. The purpose of the visit is by way of introduction to members by the HEA and to provide an overview of relevant regulatory matters.

A discussion took place on whether Cyber Security Risk could be supported at a sectoral level. It was concluded that the new sectoral representative body could be an appropriate

vehicle to progress the matter as a strategic matter for the sector. It was also noted that the HEA have devised a borrowing framework proposal which has been submitted to DFHERIS

Dr. Wall was invited to offer advice to the GB arising from the HEA's recent experience with governance matters. He advised that the HEA will revert to all governing authorities with "lessons learned" when the three reviews currently underway are completed but in the meantime he gave a broad perspective on the importance of a disciplined approach to governance and risk management. He spoke about co-creation of governance.

The importance of early warning systems, of getting all the data necessary to support decision making, especially financial data, in good time and the value of a broader range of executive staff engaging with GB were emphasised by way of specific advice.

An informative engaging discussion took place across various issues.

The Chair thanked Dr. Wall, Ms. Nugent and Ms. Cunningham for attending the meeting and invited them to join members for lunch.

**SECTION D:**


**19. AOB.**

There was no other business.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded at 2.30pm.

The next meeting will take place on at 10:00am on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, in the Midlands Campus.

Signed:

  
Chair of TUS Governing Body

Date:

31/3/25

